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Birkholz, Mortimer announce traffic light at M-99 and Spicerville Hwy is a “go”

LANSING - Legislative Republicans today announced an agreement has been reached with the governor's office to restore or advance transportation projects that will provide congestion relief, safety improvements, public transportation initiatives and recreational facilities around the state.

Sen. Patty Birkholz and Rep. Leslie Mortimer said the agreement is good news for Eaton Rapids and the surrounding communities because it will help prevent traffic accidents at a dangerous local intersection. Growth around the M-99 and Spicerville Highway intersection has created more traffic and congestion, which amplifies the need for a traffic light to curtail the increase in accidents.

“We are extremely pleased to hear the state is taking action on this safety project for the benefit of local residents and all drivers who travel through the area,” said Birkholz, R-24th District. “Installing a traffic signal at this intersection is a much needed improvement and is something local residents have been requesting for more than 10 years. This is very good news for the community.”

The \$52,000 project includes the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of M-99 and Spicerville Highway. Currently there is a stop sign on Spicerville Highway but traffic does not stop on M-99. This area is located just south of Eaton Rapids and is a main truck route. The local hospital sits on one corner of the intersection and generates high volumes of traffic at the intersection.

“I’ve heard from many concerned residents -- and seen firsthand -- how dangerous this intersection has become,” said Mortimer, R-Horton. “This much-needed traffic light is a simple solution to a dangerous public safety issue and I’m pleased that funding will now be available to address the problem. This is a great example of the Legislature and the administration working together to bring transportation needs in line with the realities of our growing communities.”

“Today’s announcement is about driving job creation in Michigan and paving the way for growth all across our state,” said Gov. Jennifer Granholm. “From going anywhere and doing anything to attract jobs to Michigan, to investing in the infrastructure that supports commerce, we have a targeted economic road map, and it’s moving Michigan in the right direction.”

Lawmakers will implement the legislation needed for these projects in the next few weeks.

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